
NEWS Release

National
Weather
Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ADDRESSES HEAVY SNOW POTENTIAL FOR TONIGHT

This afternoon the National Weather Service in the Quad Cities held a news conference addressing the heavy snow amounts expected tonight into Wednesday morning.

Senior Forecasters Mike McClure and Bill Nichols outlined the impending threat. "We are expecting as a large swath of 8 to 12 inches, with localized amounts of 12—15 inches. A few isolated spots could even see 18 inches," said Nichols. The heaviest snow is expected in a band from Fairfield Iowa to the Quad Cities to Sterling/Rock Falls Illinois. Areas south of a Keokuk to Monmouth line will see longer periods of sleet then snowfall totals of 4 to 8 inches.

"Significant winds will develop late this evening and overnight, causing near blizzard conditions, especially in open areas", said Mike McClure. Travel is expected to become very difficult to impossible after midnight tonight.

Forecasters described this event as a high confidence forecast for heavy snow. There is even potential for near-record-breaking snowfall totals in some locations.

Donna Dubberke, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, encouraged people to be prepared for severe winter weather tonight and tomorrow morning. "With the very active winter season that we have already had, it is easy to become complacent. This is a storm to take seriously, since all indicators suggest heavy snow, with rapid accumulation and blowing and drifting", said Dubberke. With the volume of snow expected, people with heart conditions or other health problems should be careful to avoid overexertion.

The National Weather Service recommends that people monitor conditions closely. During a winter storm, travel is not recommended as the trip itself could become life threatening. If travel is absolutely necessary, carry a winter survival kit and a cell phone or other means of communication.

On the Web:

National Weather Service Quad Cities ... www.weather.gov/quadcities

NOAA Weather Radio ... www.weather.gov/nwr

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